



SUPERMAN'S

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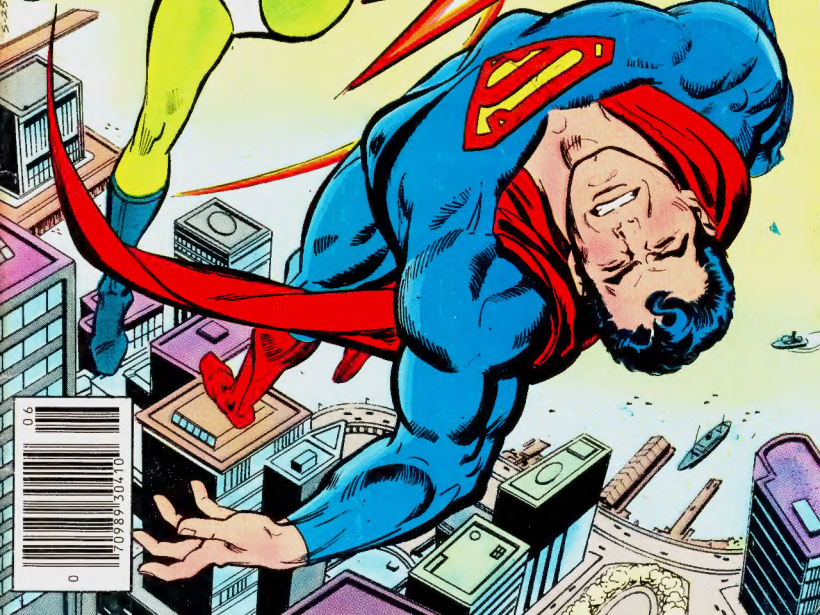
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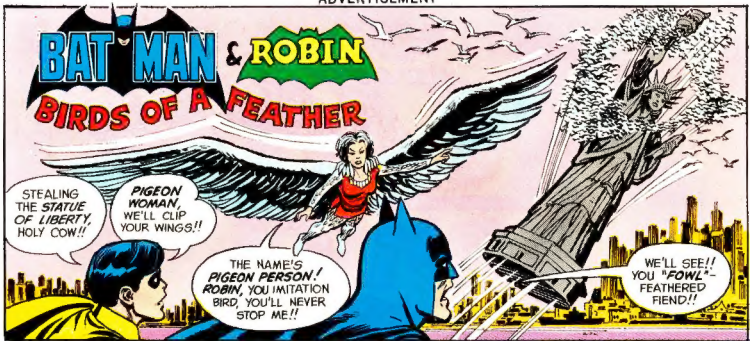
ACTION COMICS

FACE IT,
SUPERMAN!
I'M AS
POWERFUL
AS YOU--

--AND A
MUCH BETTER
FIGHTER!

5-3580







ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, HE GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH-- WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH... AND BEYOND--AS...

Created by
TERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

THIS KICK IN JUST THE
RIGHT SPOT IS FORCING YOU
TO SCREAM, SUPERMAN--

--LOUD ENOUGH TO SHATTER
THAT GLASS-FRONTED
SKYSCRAPER!

SUPERMAN HAS OFTEN TANGLED WITH
--AND ALWAYS TRIUMPHED OVER--VILLAINS
FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE--CRIMINALS
OF HIS NATIVE PLANET WHO POSSESS
BUT HIS POWERS!
SOMETHING SINISTER SUPERWOMAN HAS
KRYPTONIAN MARTIAL ARTS--WHICH
CAN PRODUCE DEVASTATING EFFECTS--
ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE STRIKES WITH...

**"The PHANTOM
TOUCH of DEATH!"**
ART: CURT SWAN & TEX BLASDELL
STORY: EMORY BATES
COLORING: JERRY SERPE

ACTION COMICS, Vol. 40, No. 472, June, 1977. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright ©1977 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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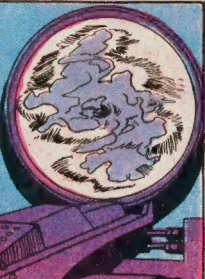
IT IS A TENSE MAN OF STEEL WHO ARCS OVER THE ARCTIC WASTELANDS TOWARD HIS SECRET FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH AN ESCAPED CONVICT FROM THE PHANTOM ZONE...

...BUT NOT LONG ENOUGH TO FORGET HOW DEADLY A SUPER-CRIMINAL CAN BE!

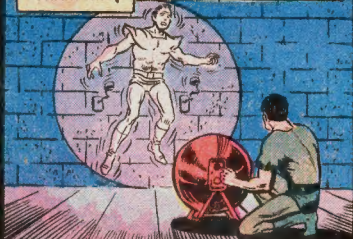
INSIDE THE GREAT CITADEL HEWN FROM SOLID ROCK BY SUPERMAN'S FISTS...

THIS COMPUTERIZED VIEWER CONTAINS A DATA-FILE ON EVERY P.Z. PRISONER!



I'LL SOON FIND OUT JUST WHOM I'M UP AGAINST!

TO BRIEF THOSE READERS NOT IN THE KNOW -- YEARS AGO, CONVICTED FELONS ON KRYPTON WERE EXILED INTO AN INVISIBLE DIMENSION TO SERVE OUT THEIR SENTENCES AS IMMATERIAL PHANTOMS.



IRONICALLY, THESE CONVICTS HAVE CONTINUED TO LIVE ON, WITHOUT AGING, IN THE ZONE, EVEN AFTER KRYPTON'S FIERY DESTRUCTION.

FINGERS OF STEEL BLUR ACROSS THE PROGRAMMING BUTTONS AS SUPERMAN SCANS THE HARDENED FACES OF KRYPTONIAN CRIMINALS...



...SEARCHING FOR THE BEAUTIFUL BUT CRUEL FEATURES OF THE WOMAN WHO HAS THREATENED HIS VERY EXISTENCE!



--UNTIL...

AHH... HERE WE ARE--!

FAORA HU-UL... OF ALEZAR!

LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN HER CRIME-FILE...



"...TRIED AND CONVICTED ON THE 52nd OF BELYUTH, IN THE YEAR 10,000... TO 300 YEARS IN THE ZONE... FOR WANTONLY CAUSING THE DEATH OF 23 KRYPTONIAN MEN IN HER OWN MALE CONCENTRATION CAMP!"

A MAN-HATER! IT FIGURES--!



ANYONE IMPRISONED IN THE ZONE AFTER 50 MANY YEARS MUST BE A REGULAR MONSTER! OTHERWISE THE KANDORIANS* WOULD HAVE RELEASED HER BY NOW!

WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE IS HOW FAORA ESCAPED!

*THE INHABITANTS OF KANDOR, THE SHRUNKEN BOTTLE-CITY FROM KRYPTON WHICH SUPERMAN KEEPS IN HIS FORTRESS.-- Julie

UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS THAT SEAL OFF THE ZONE ARE IMPENETRABLE!

HOW COULD SHE HAVE GOTTEN OUT WHILE THE OTHER CONVICTS STAYED PUT?

PERHAPS WE CAN GET AN IDEA OF HOW SHE DID IT BY RUSHING BACK TO METROPOLIS--

ALL I CAN DO NOW IS WAIT FOR FAORA TO MAKE A MOVE.

MEANTIME, I'VE GOT SOME WORK WAITING FOR ME IN CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT.

OF COURSE, WE'LL REALLY HAVE TO POUR ON THE SPEED TO GET THERE AHEAD OF THE ACTION ACE!...

...BUT FOR US, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE-- EVEN OUTFLYING SUPERMAN...ALL THE WAY--

--TO 344 CLINTON STREET, APARTMENT 3D, WHICH SUPERMAN RENTS IN HIS SECRET IDENTITY OF CLARK KENT, WGBS NEWSCASTER.

OH, KATIE... WHERE ARE YOU, MY DARLIN'?

THE VOICE YOU HEAR...

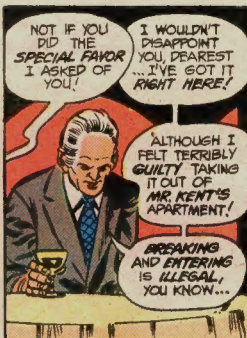
...IS COMING FROM THE APARTMENT NEXT DOOR-- HOME OF A LONELY WIDOWER, JACKSON PORTER...

YOUR WINE IS LOSING ITS BOUQUET, KATIE!



I'VE TOLD YOU SO MANY TIMES, JACKSON... I HAVE DIFFICULTY GRASPING OBJECTS IN YOUR PHYSICAL WORLD!

YOU SOUND TESTY, KATIE! IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?

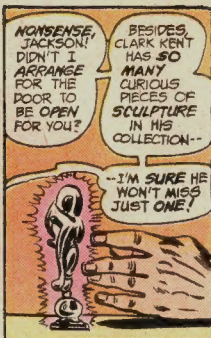


NOT IF YOU DID THE SPECIAL FAVOR I ASKED OF YOU!

I WOULDN'T DISAPPOINT YOU, DEAREST... I'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE!

ALTHOUGH I FELT TERRIBLY GUILTY TAKING IT OUT OF MR. KENT'S APARTMENT!

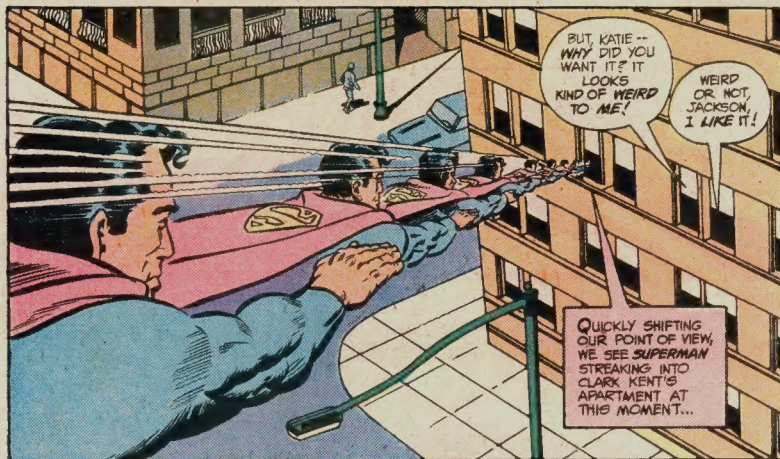
BREAKING AND ENTERING IS ILLEGAL, YOU KNOW...



NONSENSE, JACKSON! DIDN'T I ARRANGE FOR THE DOOR TO BE OPEN FOR YOU?

BESIDES, CLARK KENT HAS SO MANY CURIOUS PIECES OF SCULPTURE IN HIS COLLECTION--

--I'M SURE HE WON'T MISS JUST ONE!



BUT, KATIE -- WHY DID YOU WANT IT? IT LOOKS KIND OF WEIRD TO ME!

WEIRD OR NOT, JACKSON, I LIKE IT!

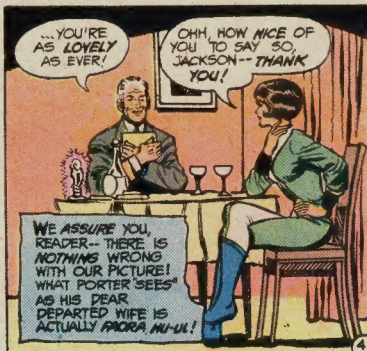
QUICKLY SHIFTING OUR POINT OF VIEW, WE SEE SUPERMAN STREAKING INTO CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT AT THIS MOMENT...



KATHLEEN PORTER! YOU ALWAYS DID TAKE OFFENSE EASILY!

WHY, I BELIEVE YOU'RE EVEN MORE SENSITIVE NOW THAN WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE!

BUT ONE THING HASN'T CHANGED...



...YOU'RE AS LOVELY AS EVER!

OH, HOW NICE OF YOU TO SAY SO, JACKSON-- THANK YOU!

WE ASSURE YOU, READER-- THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH OUR PICTURE! WHAT PORTER SEES AS HIS DEAR DEPARTED WIFE IS ACTUALLY PRIOR! MU-UL!

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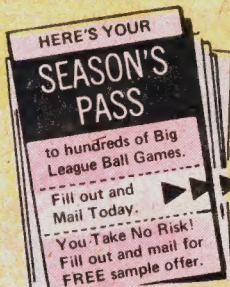
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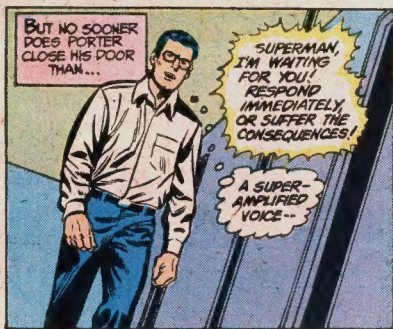
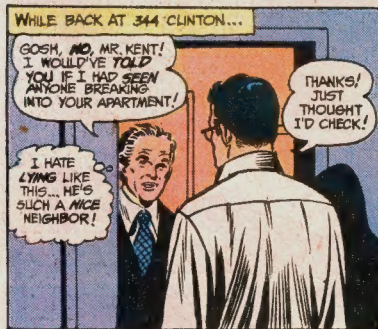
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*IN LAST ISSUE'S "ONE OF OUR PHANTOMS IS MISSING!"

--JULIE

HALFWAY
ACROSS
METROPOLIS,
SUPERMAN
GETS HIS
JOLTING
ANSWER...

HA! CAUGHT YOU
WITH A PERFECTLY
AIMED BLOW--

-- AUTOMATICALLY FORCING
YOU TO CRY OUT IN PAIN!



YEEAAARGH!!

UUUUUAAA

AS THE LOUD, HIGH-
PITCHED SUPER-SCREAMS
GENERATE MORE POTENT
SOUND-WAVES THAN A SCORE
OF SONIC BOOMS...



FAORA'S KICK CAUSED
A REFLEX-ACTION IN MY
KRYPTONIAN BODY!
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN
DO TO STOP SCREAMING!

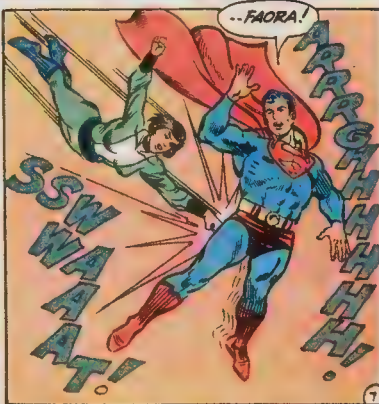
?WHEN! THE EFFECT
IS BEGINNING TO
WEAR OFF--

--BUT NOT BEFORE
THE SOUND-WAVES
SHATTERED THE
GLASS-FRONT OF THAT
SKYSCRAPER!



FAORA VANISHED
AS SUDDENLY AS
SHE APPEARED!

SOON AS MY
HEAT VISION
VAPORIZES
THESE DEADLY
SHARDS OF GLASS
I'LL GO LOOKING
FOR--



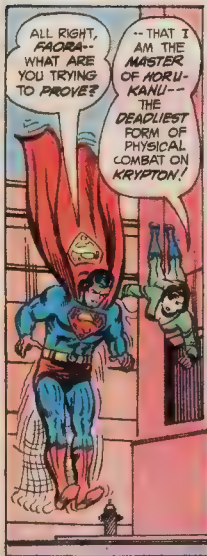
--FAORA!

SSWAAAT!
AARGH!!



THIS TIME SHE HIT A CERTAIN NERVE IN MY THIGH-- ACTIVATING THE TREADMILL REFLEX!

CAN'T STAY AIRBORNE THIS WAY--!



ALL RIGHT, FAORA-- WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE?

-- THAT I AM THE MASTER OF MORU-KANU-- THE DEADLIEST FORM OF PHYSICAL COMBAT ON KRYPTON!



WITH MY EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRET REFLEX POINTS ON A KRYPTONIAN'S BODY-- YOUR BODY--

-- EACH BLOW I STRIKE-- AT PRECISELY THE RIGHT SPOT-- RESULTS IN AN AUTOMATIC VIOLENT REFLEX-ACTION!



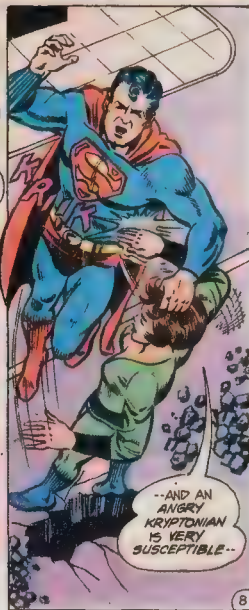
BUT I DARE SAY YOU'VE NOTICED THAT ALREADY!



SUDDENLY-- WITH AN UPWARD SURGE OF SUPER-SPEED...

PULLING ME UP BY THE HAIR--?!

WHY, SUPERMAN-- I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE ANGRY!



-- AND AN ANGRY KRYPTONIAN IS VERY SUSCEPTIBLE--

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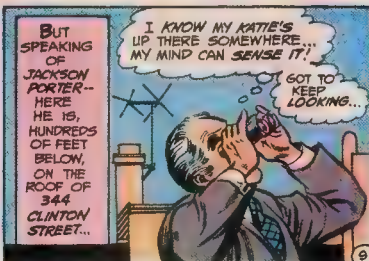
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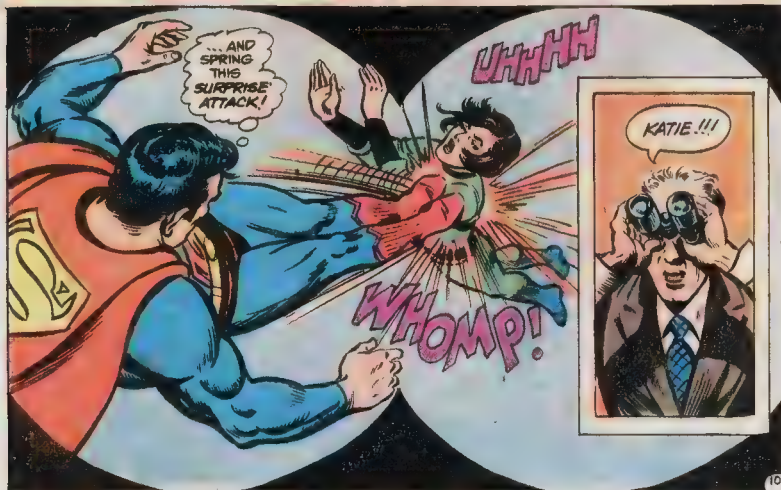
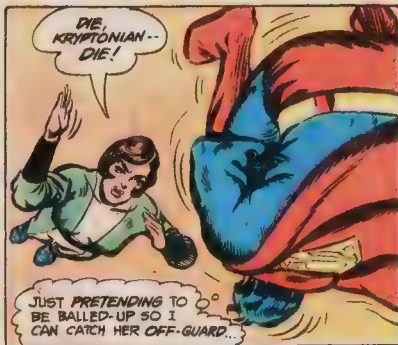
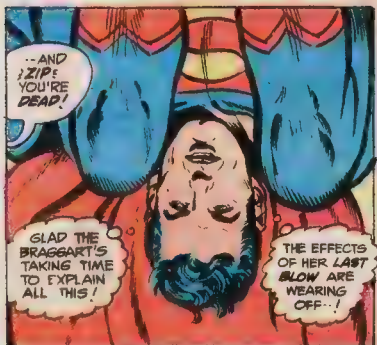
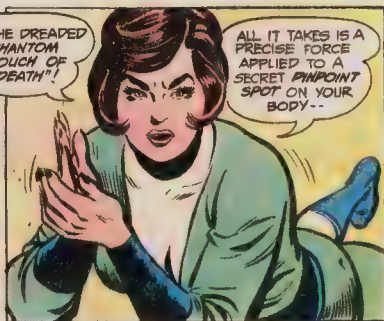
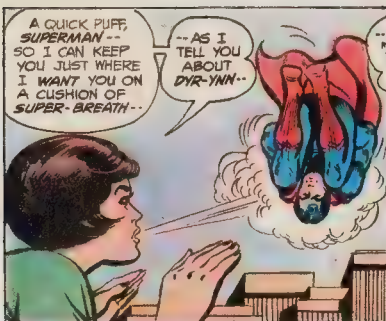
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WHAT

ARE THE CHALLENGERS, BLACKHAWKS, PLASTIC MAN, CONGO BILL AND ROBOTMAN DOING WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA?



FIND OUT IN JLA #144-- ON SALE APRIL 7TH!

WHO-- OR WHAT IS THE CHANGING MAN?

A NEW KIND
of SUPER-HERO

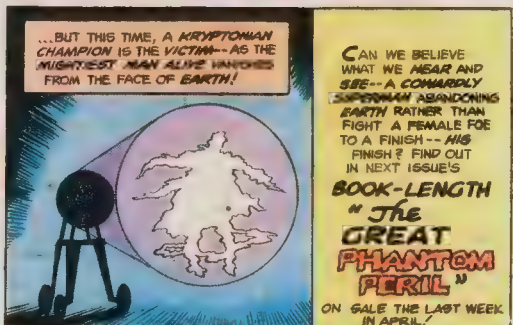
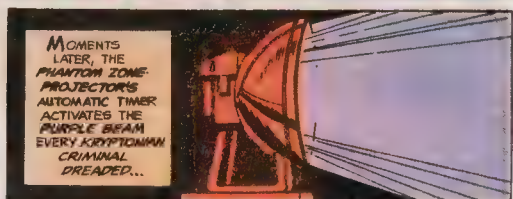
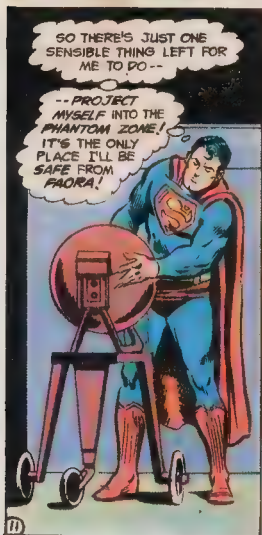
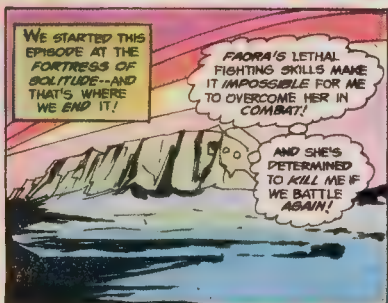
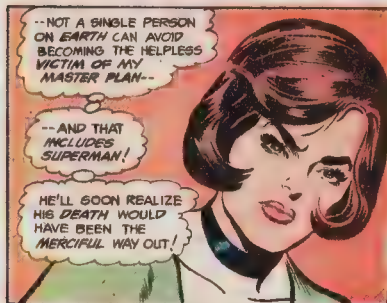
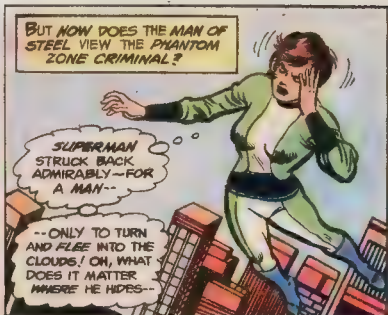
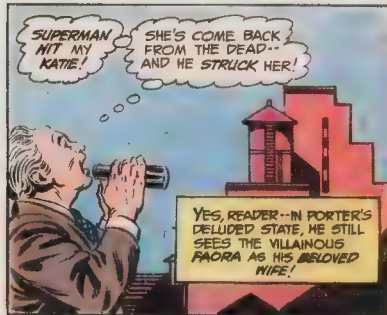
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VOLUME 77 ISSUE 13

WEEK OF MARCH 28, 1977

BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR

ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

REAL JLA ORIGIN REVEALED

GREEN ARROW UNEARTHS

TRUTH ABOUT FIRST TEAM-UP

(JLA Headquarters)—Green Arrow has stumbled upon the strangest story in the history of the *Justice League*: how his fellow heroes have been covering up the truth about the group's origin for years! Now, you can learn the truth in "The Origin of the Justice League—Minus One" in *JUSTICE LEAGUE #144*.

In this amazing story by Steve Englehart, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin, you'll see how Jonn J'onzz, the Manhunter from Mars, played a pivotal role in the first historic meeting of what would later become the *Justice League*. And, even more exciting is seeing the other heroes of the day who volunteered to help—heroes like Plastic Man, the Blackhawks, the Challengers of the Unknown, Congo Bill and Congorilla, Robotman, The Vigilante, Roy Raymond, Rip Hunter, Adam Strange, and even Rex the Wonder Dog!

It's an epic adventure that's sure to become a classic so be sure to be at your comic dealer's early during the week of April 4th.

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE THE WEEK OF APRIL 4th
BLACK LIGHTNING #3—Black Lightning is wanted for the murder of Joey Toledo and he's about to cross paths with the Great White Whale. No wonder the story's called "All Hands Against Him" by Tony Isabella, Trevor VonEeden and Frank Springer.

GHOSTS #55—This issue's true tales of the supernatural include: "The House That Was Built For Haunting"; "Village of the Vengeful Spirits"; and "The Night the Devil Danced!"

JONAH HEX #3—Jonah Hex is wanted for murders he didn't commit. You must not miss "The Fugitive" by Fleisher and Jose Garcia Lopez.

KARATE KID #9—Our master of martial arts in the target of "The Black Belt Contract" by Barry Jameson, Ric Estrada and Joe Staton!

SGT. ROCK #306—Another battle blockbuster about the men of Easy Company by Bob Kanigher, Joe Kubert and Frank Redondo.



KID FLASH BATTLES SUPER-VILLAINS

(San Francisco)—The Secret Society of Super-Villains has a new modus operandi thanks to Funky Flashman. The group is planning to hire themselves out to people who want a crime pulled off. Thus begins an epic crime spree—the search for the Sorcerer's Treasure—and the first attempt pits Kid Flash against The Trickster and Gorilla Grodd, along with the usual members of the SSSV.

But what about the book's resident super-hero, Captain Comet? He's in on the case too, but he's also involved with a lot more—as you'll see when you read "Let the Villain Fit the Crime" by Gerry Conway, Rich Buckler and Bob Layton in *SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS #8*, on sale the week of April 4th.

SUPERMAN #313—Amalak is planning to kill Supergirl, Earth is about to be overrun with a deadly plague and Superman finds out that "The Only Way to Save Earth is Over My Dead Body" by Marty Pasko, Curt Swan and Dan Adkins.

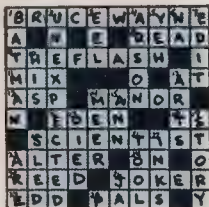
AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:
ACTION COMICS #472/DETECTIVE COMICS #470/GREEN LANTERN #95/SUPER-TEAM FAMILY #11 (The Flash, Supergirl and The Atom)/**WARLORD #7/WONDER WOMAN #232** (costarring the Justice Society)

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: I'm a big fan of *ENEMY ACE*! Any chance we'll see him in action again?
A: There's a very good chance, since a new series of stories is in the works. Just where it will appear is not set as yet, but keep a watch for the announcement!

Q: I've been seeing the name Mike Gold on the DC Profiles you've been running. My question is, WHO is Mike Gold? **A:** Mike is our Public Relations Director and he spends most of his time getting DC Comics exposure everywhere he can. The rest of his time is spent trying to keep the DC Hotline from overloading!

Q: Okay, BR, stop beating around the puzzle. Where's last week's solution? **A:** Look no further.



Got a question for the Answer Man? Send it to Bob Rozakis, DC Comics Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019.

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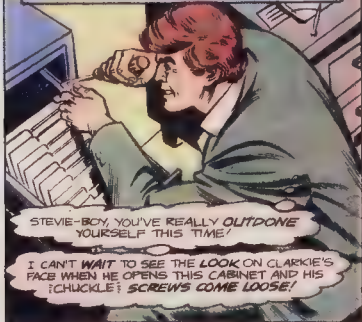
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HE WAS THE STAR QUARTERBACK FOR THE METROPOLIS METEORS. HE IS THE STAR SPORTSCASTER FOR WBSB-TV, AND ON OR OFF CAMERA, HE LIVES...

OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE WBSB STUDIOS OF GALAXY BROADCASTING, WHERE STEVE LOMBARD HAS ARRIVED EARLY AT THE OFFICE OF CLARK KENT...

...AND SCREWDRIIVER IN HAND, IS BUSILY ENGAGED IN HIS FAVORITE PASTIME...



STEVE-BOY, YOU'VE REALLY OUTDONE YOURSELF THIS TIME!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON CLARKIE'S FACE WHEN HE OPENS THIS CABINET AND HIS ?CHUCKLE? SCREWS COME LOOSE!



GOTTA ADMIT, I OCCASIONALLY DO FEEL GUILTY PLAYING ALL THESE PRANKS ON CLARK

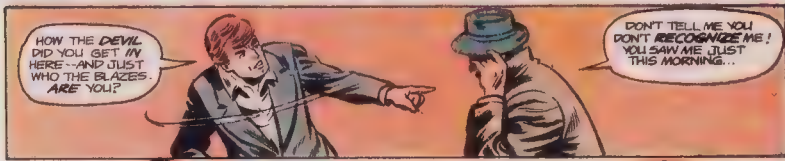
BUT, LET'S FACE IT-- WHEN THAT GUY WAS BORN, THERE WAS EVERYTHING BUT THE WORD "VICTIM" IMPRINTED ON HIS FOREHEAD!



I'M MERELY FULFILLING A ROLE DESTINY DECREED--

HUM--?

COME ON, STEVE, AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD FOR THIS SORT OF STUFF?



HOW THE DEVIL DID YOU GET IN HERE--AND JUST WHO THE BLAZES ARE YOU?

DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME! YOU SAW ME JUST THIS MORNING...



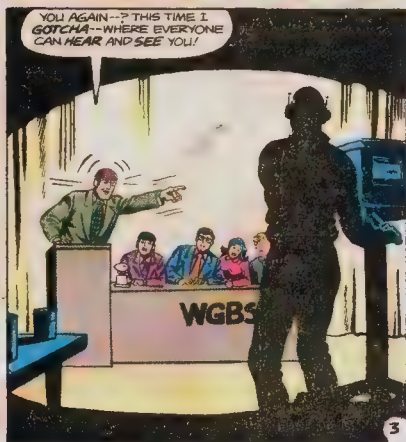
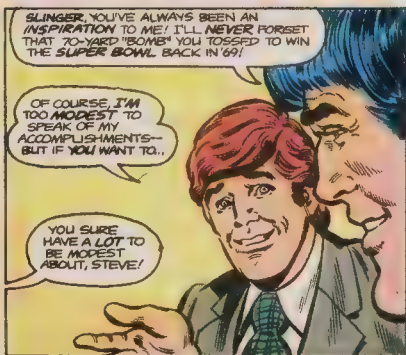
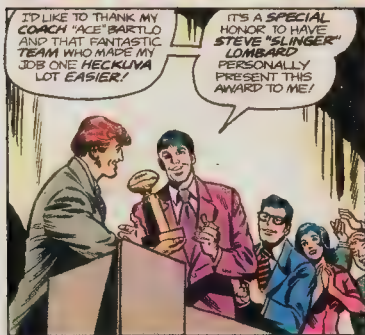
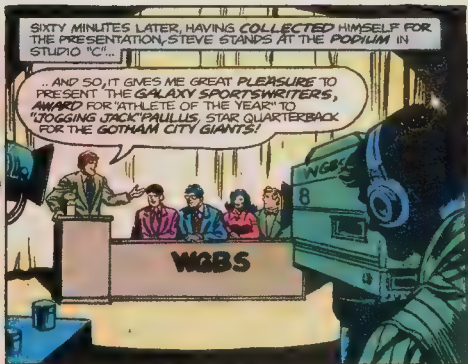
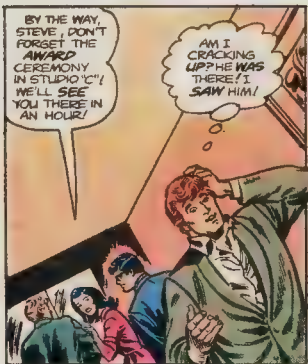
...IN YOUR SHAVING MIRROR!

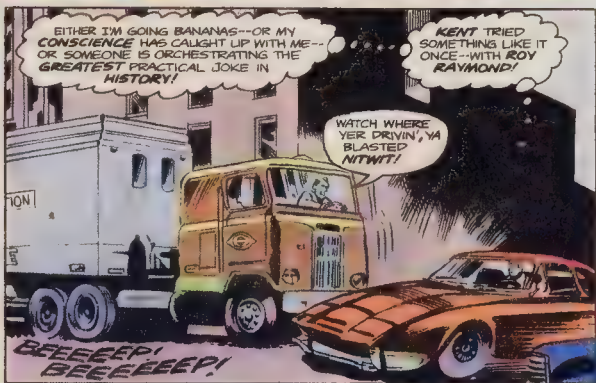
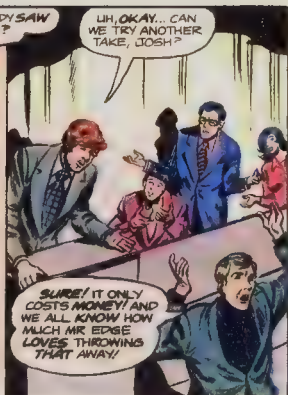
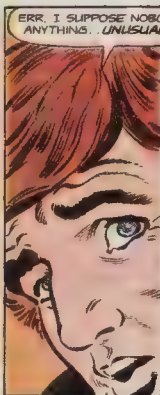
STEVE LOMBARD HAS SEEN MANY STRANGE THINGS IN HIS LIFE, BUT NOTHING TO COMPARE WITH THIS! AND AS A FEELING OF ILLNESS BEGINS TO OVERTAKE HIM, HE FINDS HIMSELF ASKING...

IF I'M OVER HERE... WHAT AM I DOING OVER THERE?

SCRIPT: BILL KUNKEL
ART: J. CALNAN & TEX BLAISDELL







"I NEVER STOPPED EATING - YET I LOST 18 POUNDS IN 15 DAYS!"

FAT-BURNING SYSTEM - FOR THE BODY

POSITIVE PROOF THIS SYSTEM REALLY WORKS... AND FAST!!

My name is Brad Mitchell. For many years I have helped thousands of people lose weight. And I believe I can help you!

I realize that today, there are so many weight loss products and programs on the market, that you are probably thoroughly confused as to which one is truly effective.

Everyone, both young and old is striving for that slim, sleek, youthful and energetic figure. The problem is how to achieve such a shape without damage to your health and at the same time keep your energy level high in order to cope with the tensions and rapid pace of today's world.

I have developed such a system!

I firmly believe that this Amazing Fat Burning system is the most effective system ever. I should know, just take a look at my before and after pictures. I lost 18 pounds of ugly fat in only 15 days.

And, believe it or not, I kept my stomach full of food (no hunger pangs).

And, my wife lost 40 pounds in only 30 days!

Since then, I have been continuously researching areas of nutrition, bodybuilding, and diet programs, in order to help thousands achieve that same attractive shape desired by everyone. In fact everyone I put on this Amazing Fat Burning System, reported that they made fantastic weight losses--fast and easy!



almost any weight reduction you desire. And isn't that what you want?

This system is so unique and effective (because it really works)--so much so, that we have had the system copyrighted with the US Government, so that the secrets cannot be copied and stolen!

MAN OR WOMAN--YOUNG OR NOT SO YOUNG--THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Everyone can use this system, regardless whether you're young or not so young. It doesn't matter whether you're 10 or 100 pounds overweight, or how many times you have tried to get into shape. With this new system you'll lose weight faster than ever before. In fact you'll have more energy, strength and endurance so that you will feel younger and enjoy a fuller more active life.

I HAVE A SUPEREXERCISE FOR YOU! MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JOGGING!

To help you loose that fat even faster, I've developed a program for a Fun exercise that is more effective than jogging (in the same amount of time), yet it can be done in the privacy of your own bedroom. It takes only several minutes, three times a week to perform this unique exercise! This exercise is done by top athletes and even astronauts. You won't believe how fast your energy level will rise (and how fast you'll get back into shape).

THIS AMAZING SYSTEM REQUIRES ONLY A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME!

This system requires a small amount of your time (and some effort), but the results will be nothing short of miraculous! Our program offers you plenty of food to eat, plus supplements that will also help burn off the excess fat.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE TRIM AND SLIM...AND WITHIN DAYS BEGIN TO SEE A REAL DIFFERENCE

IN YOUR APPEARANCE--THEN THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Remember, it doesn't matter how many times you have tried to lose weight, your time has finally come, with the Amazing Fat Burning System!

A healthy slim, trim and energetic figure is our goal--make it yours!

SEE DRAMATIC RESULTS IN JUST DAYS...OR RETURN EVERYTHING FOR A FULL REFUND!

You have nothing to lose except fat. Try the Amazing Fat Burning System for a couple of weeks--if you don't feel that the results are fantastic in every way, you can return the system to us, and you'll get a full refund. Just like that! No questions asked.

Give it a try today.



FREE WAIST COURSE!!

Order your Fat-Burning System today and we'll send you FREE our fantastic ABDOMINAL COURSE. This big book will show you how to have a trim, muscular waist in the fastest time possible! Get rid of that pot-belly and have a sexy, trim waist. You'll look and feel like a new man!

IS IT THE WORLDS FASTEST, MOST EFFECTIVE FAT BURNING SYSTEM EVER?

I sincerely think it is! Why? Because many of the principles and methods used are the same as those used by top physique champions to eliminate all excess fat.

In fact, many physique champions reduce their body fat to the extreme, so that the skin becomes almost paper thin. Certainly you don't want to become extremely thin. But it is nice to know that the Fat Burning System can accomplish

Brad Mitchell
27313 Plymouth Rd., Dept. SUP-1
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Okay, Brad, I accept your offer! But I've got to feel that the Amazing Fat Burning System is the greatest and that the results will be nothing short of miraculous. Otherwise I'll send everything back for a full refund! I enclose \$9.95. (cash, check or money order)

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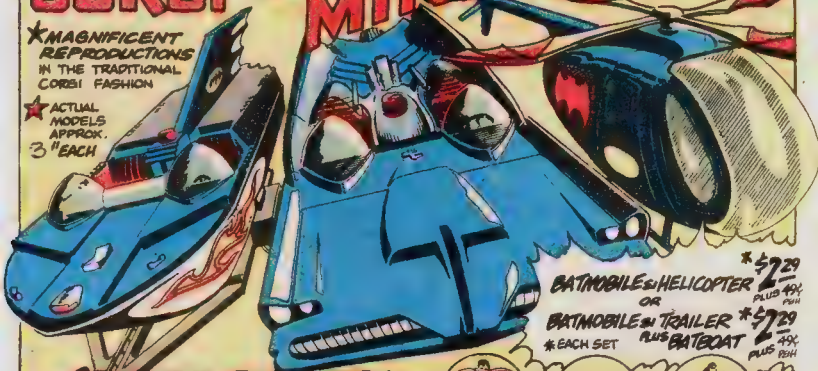
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NEW FROM CORGI

BATMANIA MINIATURES

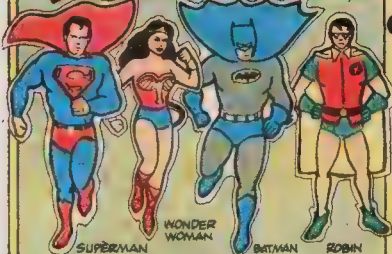
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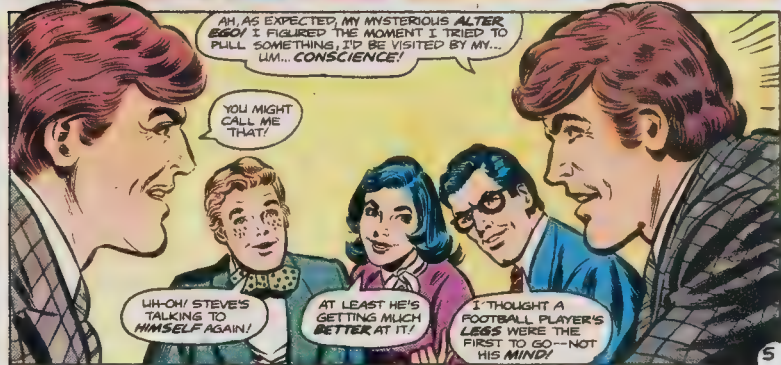
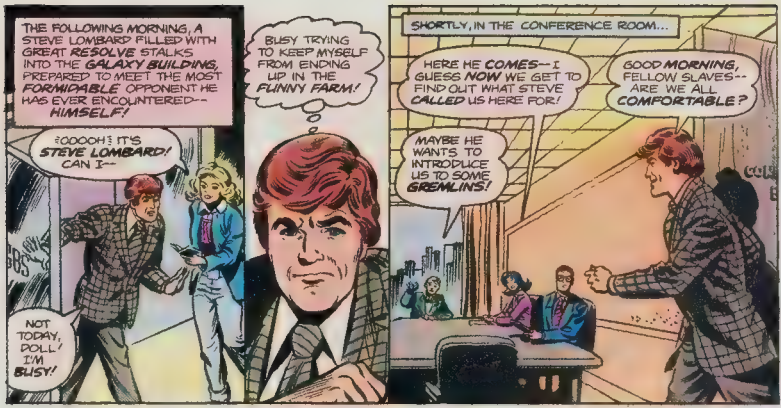
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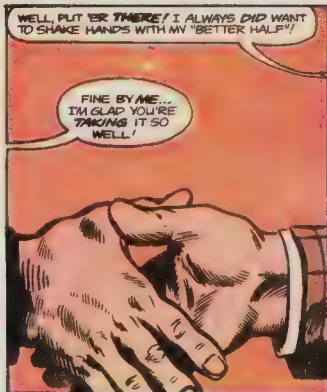
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WELL, PUT 'ER THERE! I ALWAYS DID WANT TO SHAKE HANDS WITH MY "BETTER HALF!"

FINE BY ME... I'M GLAD YOU'RE TAKING IT SO WELL!

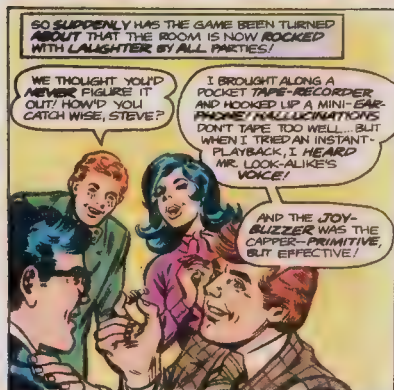


OH, I'VE TAKEN IT FINE! NOW--

--IT'S YOUR TURN!

YOWW!

BZZZZ

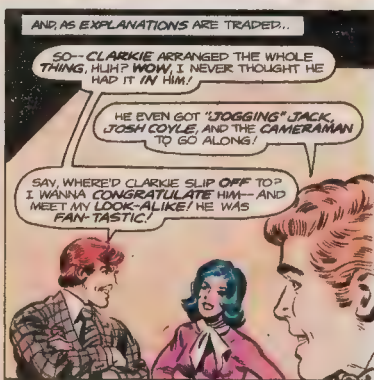


SO SUDDENLY HAS THE GAME BEEN TURNED ABOUT THAT THE ROOM IS NOW ROCKED WITH LAUGHTER BY ALL PARTIES!

WE THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER FIGURE IT OUT! HOW'D YOU CATCH WISE, STEVE?

I BROUGHT ALONG A POCKET TAPE-RECORDER AND HOOKED UP A MINI-EARPHONE! HALLUCINATIONS DON'T TAPE TOO WELL... BUT WHEN I TRIED AN INSTANT-PLAYBACK, I HEARD MR. LOOK-ALIKE'S VOICE!

AND THE JOY-BLIZZER WAS THE CAPPER--PRIMITIVE, BUT EFFECTIVE!



AND, AS EXPLANATIONS ARE TRADED...

SO-- CLARKIE ARRANGED THE WHOLE THING, HUH? WOW, I NEVER THOUGHT HE HAD IT IN HIM!

HE EVEN GOT "JOGGING" JACK, JOSH COYLE, AND THE CAMERAMAN TO GO ALONG!

SAY, WHERE'D CLARKIE SLIP OFF TO? I WANNA CONGRATULATE HIM-- AND MEET MY LOOK-ALIKE! HE WAS FAN-TASTIC!



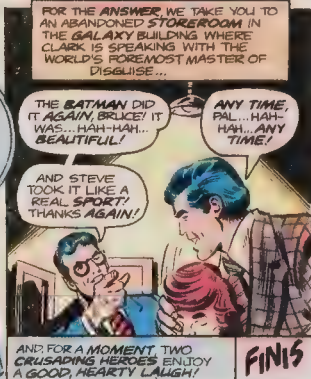
IF I HADN'T REMEMBERED YESTERDAY'S DATE, MY DOUBLE MIGHT'VE REALLY CONVINCED ME HE WAS MY CONSCIENCE!

WHO WAS HE, ANYHOW?

Y'GOT ME!

SO, THERE YOU HAVE IT, READER! ALL THE CLUES ARE IN--JUST WHO WAS STEVE LOMBARD'S MYSTERIOUS DOUBLE?

ALL CLARK TOLD US WAS THAT HE'D "ARRANGED" THE WHOLE THING WITH A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF HIS!



FOR THE ANSWER WE TAKE YOU TO AN ABANDONED STOREROOM IN THE GALAXY BUILDING WHERE CLARK IS SPEAKING WITH THE WORLD'S FOREMOST MASTER OF DISGUISE...

THE BATMAN DID IT AGAIN, BRUCE! IT WAS... HAH-HAH... BEAUTIFUL!

ANY TIME, PAL... HAH-HAH... ANY TIME!

AND STEVE TOOK IT LIKE A REAL SPORT! THANKS AGAIN!

AND, FOR A MOMENT, TWO CRUSADING HEROES ENJOY A GOOD, HEARTY LAUGH!

FINIS



Dear Julie and Nelson:

Hey! Finally an interesting issue of *Action*! I was about ready to give up hope. *Action* #488's "Terra at Nine O'Clock" (where does Cary get those awful titles?) made me sit up and take notice. It was a fine story with great characterization and nifty dialogue. Cary threw in all sorts of little touches, without which the story would have been b-o-r-i-n-g. I refer to such beauts as "Golly, Daddy—is *Terra-Man* a good guy or a bad guy?"; "My *Superman* masquerade never could fool you, Clark!"; "I think the word is 'pre-empted'"; and Lois' "How well I know!" In short, the absurd plot mattered very little when compared to all the neat little jokes that kept me snickering, even down to *Terra-Man*'s last line, reminiscent (probably intentionally so, knowing Cary) of the old *Batman* TV show!

The Morgan Edge back-up ("My Son, the Orphan") was great, too. Marty Pasko is developing into one heck of a writer. He really has a feel for his characters. The great Morgan Edge intimidated by his little Jewish mama—wow! This was handled very well indeed—in an adult fashion, especially the dialogue in the last few panels, with Clark, Lois and Jimmy. Thanks for a very enjoyable story and issue.

Beth Montelone
13 Rowley St., Apt. 3
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

(Sometimes Cary dreams up those titles himself. Sometimes the editor or associate editor does it. After all, somebody has to, or we couldn't have those "awful" titles!—E.N.B.)

Dear Julie:

Action Comics is still at the bottom. This is a heckuva thing to say to someone who has written as many *Superman* stories as Cary has, but he doesn't understand the character of *Superman*. This is not *The Flash*, Cary, where your double-twisted plots can be swallowed.

One: The reappearance of *Terra-Man*. C'mon, guys, are we supposed to take seriously this fugitive from a bad Western? He's campy, guys. Look, if Cary wants to write a Western, put him on a Western mag. This is about the *Man of Tomorrow*, not Max Brand's Jim Silver.

Two: The "gimmick" of the issue—*Terra*'s TV show. Both silly and campy, even down to the closing lines, "same *Terra-time*, came *Terra-channel*!" Also, *Terra-Man*'s name is dumb. If you have to have a Western villain with Alien devices, give him a Western name. Something like "The Renegade" or "The Bushwhacker." *Terra-Man* just doesn't cut it.

Three: Marty Pasko's story about Morgan Edge. Actually, pretty nicely done, and welcome if Edge doesn't change his name back. But somehow, the idea of having a tyrannical boss called Morris Edlestein for Clark to cover before just doesn't make it. Uh—by the way—if Edge is a pseudonym, how come his niece is called Stephanie Edge? Did she just decide not to blow her uncle's "cover"?

Al Schroeder III
2207 Old Hickory Blvd.
Nashville, Tenn. 37215

(We must remember some time to tell you about Stephanie's dad—Morgan's brother—who also decided to change his name for business reasons. Incidentally, changing his name back would involve too much paperwork to make it worth while, so Edge will still be called Edge.—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

Funny thing about these back-up features in *Action Comics*... they're constantly stealing the thunder from the cover stories. "My Son, the Orphan" was no exception... I'm sure Sophie Edlestein will remain in my memory long after *Superman* and *Terra-Man*'s TV battle fades away.

Marty Pasko is the kind of writer who could probably take on all the *Superman* family books and whip them into better shape than they've ever been in before. He clearly understands not only *Superman*, but also the supporting cast, and can do more in six pages to further the *Superman* legend than most writers can do in twice that. Or three times.

"My Son, the Orphan" was brilliant in this respect. It was a serious story, dealing with a serious topic (bigotry) and the effect it had on one of its victims (Morgan Edge). And yet it was still warm and funny, probably because it was so honest in dealing with Edge's relationship with his mother. And Sophie herself is simply a brilliant character, one of the best I've seen in comics in years. She's a comic character, yes, but in her short allotted space, she said more about human dignity and love than was said during the whole run of the old *Green Lantern/Green Arrow*.

Here's at least one reader who will be buying *Action Comics* for the back-up features. And, just out of curiosity, whom have you got slated for future back-ups? There's no real reason to stick to *Metropolis*' cast, you know. I'm still waiting for some exotic back-ups featuring Lana Lang in Europe, Sylvia and *Van-Zee* in *Kandor*, and maybe even Lori Lemaris in Atlantis. Don't back out on me now.

Bob Rodi
311 W. Irving, Apt. 5B
Dayton, Ohio 45409

(Good ideas—but *Van-Zee* is starring as the new *Nightwing* in *Superman Family*—of which yours truly has just been appointed the new story editor. So what we can't cover in the *Action* back-ups maybe we'll use in our companion mag.—E.N.B.)

Dear Julius:

Neal Adams' cover for issue #488 was out of sight. Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdel were perfect in the art department. Cary Bates' script was excellent—the way he built suspense by changing the scene from the supporting cast's reaction to the main action. *Terra-Man* is becoming one of *Superman*'s deadliest foes.

Morgan Edge came off better than usual in his close-up story. He was not an upper-class boor, but a man with compassionate feeling. I hope you bring back Mrs. Sophie Edlestein in a future issue.

Charles David Haskell
15 W 139th St., 4D
New York, N.Y. 10037

(And without further comment, because we've run out of room, we sign off.—E. Nelson Bridwell)

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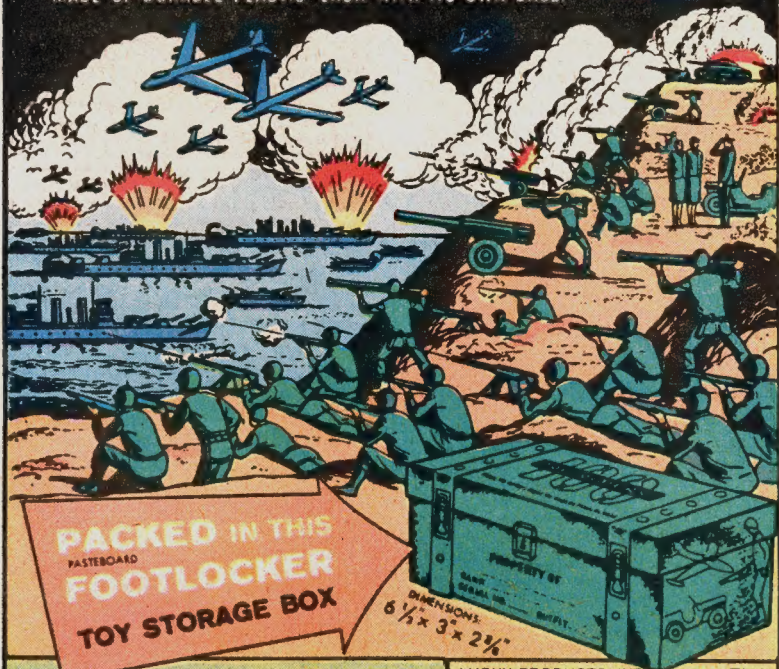
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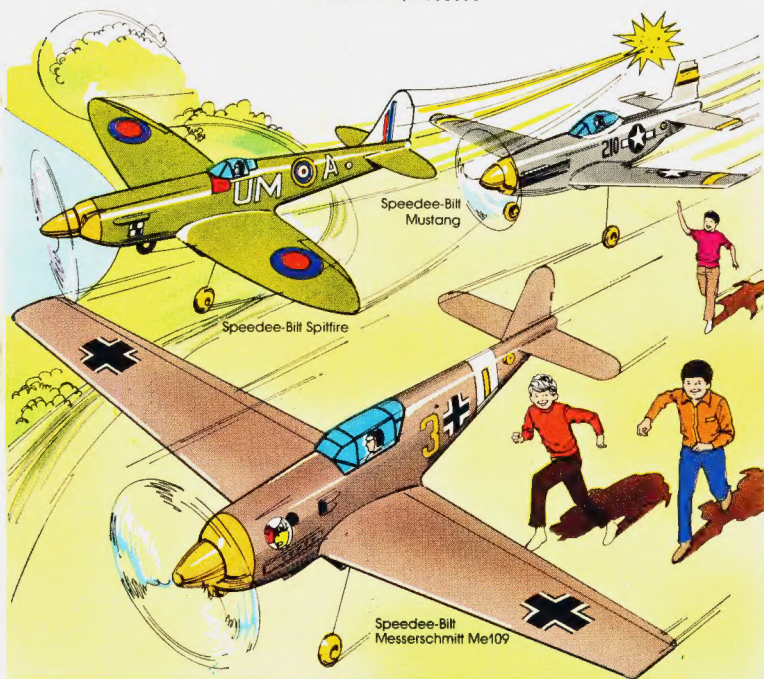
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